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Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 10382-US-PA
Application No.: 10/604,588

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding Office Action mailed on March 23, 2005. The Office Action has objected to the informalities in claim 12. The Office Action has also rejected claims 9-11 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. Further, the Office Action has rejected claims 1-6 and 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 102(c) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. (US 6,255,782) and Winsor (US 6,762,556), respectively. The Office Action has finally rejected claims 7-8, 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda in view of Volkommer et al. (US 6,034,470) and claims 9-11 and 20-22 as being unpatentable over Kuroda in view of Winsor (US 5,319,282).

Claim 1 has been amended, claims 12-22 have been cancelled and claim 23 has been newly added. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1-11 and 23 remain pending in the present application. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the specification. It is believed that no new matter has been added to the application by the amendments made to the claims or otherwise in the application.

The Applicants have most respectfully considered the remarks set forth in this Office Action. Regarding the anticipation and obviousness rejections, it is however strongly believed that the cited references are deficient to adequately teach the claimed features as recited in the

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amended claims. The reasons that motivate the above position of the Applicants are discussed in detail hereafter, upon which reconsideration of the claims is most earnestly solicited.

Discussion of Claim Objections

Claim 12 is objected to because it is a duplicate of claim 1.

Claim 12 has been cancelled to render the objection moot.

Discussion of 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph Rejections

Claim 9 has been amended to properly depend on claim 2. Claim 20 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the rejections is courteously requested.

Response to 35 U.S.C. 102 & 103 rejections

Claims 1-6 and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kuroda et al. (USP 6,255,782).

Claims 1-6 and 12, 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Winsor (USP 6,762,556).

Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 patently define over the Kuroda or Winsor for at least the reason that the cited art fails to disclose each and every feature as claimed in the present invention. More particularly, the present invention teaches, among other things, that the flat lamp structure comprises "...a plurality of electrodes disposed only on an identical

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outer wall of the gas discharge chamber...". On the contrary, Kuroda teaches having electrodes on the outer surfaces of both the front glass substrate 1 and the rear glass substrate 2 (Col. 3, ln. 53-63, Fig. 1). Similarly, Winsor teaches a bottom planar electrode and a top planar electrode 24 on the surfaces of the plates 14 and 16. The different configurations are necessitated for the different mechanisms used in generating UV and plasma for Kuroda and Winsor. The generation of visible light for Kuroda and Winsor basically relies on the voltage differences between the top plate and the bottom plate, wherein the electrodes on the two plates create an electric field, which in turn produces a plasma from the UV-emissive gas in the chamber. The emitted UV rays generated by the plasma further excite the fluorescence substance to produce visible light. The instant case, on the other hand, relies on the voltage differences between the electrodes that are disposed on the identical outer wall of the dielectric substrate to excite the gas inside the discharge chamber. Accordingly, neither Kuroda nor Winsor can render claim 1 of the present invention anticipated. Since claims 9-11 and 23 are dependent claims which further define the invention recited in claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

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Claims 7-8 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. (USP 6,255,782) in view of Volkommer et al. (USP 6,034,470).

Applicants respectfully disagree and would like to point out that even though the Examiner relied upon Volkommer for teaching the electrodes being metal electrodes, still Chen cannot cure the specific deficiencies of Kuroda. Accordingly, claims 7-8 also patently define over combination of Kuroda and Volkommer for at least the same reasons discussed above. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-11 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuroda et al. (USP 6,255,782) in view of Winsor et al. (USP 5,319,282).

With regard to the 103 rejections of claims by Kuroda in view of Winsor ('282), Applicants respectfully submit that these claims defined over the prior art references for at least the reasons discussed above.

Moreover, the planar face plate 68 of Winsor with the sidewalls 70, 72 forms a pressure chamber. Further, the planar face plate 68 is attached to the diffuser coating 74, carrying the chamber at a pressure close to atmospheric. On the other hand, the carrier substrate 21 of the instant case is directly attached to dielectric substrate 200a, carrying a vacuum chamber. In other words, the dielectric substrate 200a is supported by the carrier substrate, and the dielectric substrate 200a and the carrier substrate 210 can be considered as a single plate. As a result, the

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thickness of the dielectric substrate 200a can be reduced to lower the threshold voltage for generating the discharge. Accordingly, the planar face plate 68 of Winsor is not comparable to the carrier substrate 210 of the present invention.

For at least these reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that Kuroda in view of Winsor fails to render claim 1 unpatentable. Since claims 9-11 are dependent claims which further define the invention recited in claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims defined over the prior art references for at least the reasons discussed above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectively requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the presently pending claims 1-11 and 23 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date :

June 17, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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